CLAIMS

1. A synthetic conjugate of a protein and a plurality of epitopes for use in medicine, wherein said epitopes are capable of binding to xenogenic natural antibodies.

2. A conjugate for use in medicine according to claim 1, wherein said protein does not cause an adverse immune response when present in humans.

3. A conjugate for use in medicine according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said protein is a human protein or a functional equivalent thereof.

4. A conjugate according to any preceding claim wherein said protein is a protein found in blood.

5. A conjugate for use in medicine according to any preceding claim, wherein said protein is serum albumin.

6. A conjugate for use in medicine according to any preceding claim wherein said epitopes are selected from an oligosaccharide or a mimic thereof, which includes a terminal galactose in an α conformation and which, optionally, is linked to the protein via a spacer molecule.

7. A conjugate for use in medicine according to any preceding claim having a plurality of epitopes which include α linked galactose.

8. A conjugate for use in medicine according to claim 7 having a plurality of epitopes which include Galα1,3Gal.

9. A conjugate for use in medicine according to any preceding claim which further comprises a moiety which binds to liver cells.

10. A conjugate for use in medicine according to claim 9 wherein the moiety which binds to liver cells comprises a β-linked galactose

11. A method for preventing rejection of a xenograft or at least of reducing the extent or rate of rejection, comprising administering a conjugate as described in any preceding claim to a patient.

12. A method for treating a disease in which an epitope capable of binding to a xenogenic natural antibody is implicated (e.g. Chagas disease, Leishmania or ideopathic myelofibrosis), comprising administering a conjugate as described in any of claims 1 to 10 to a patient.

13. A method for treating blood removed from a blood donor to reduce the number of xenogenic natural antibodies present, comprising causing the blood to flow past a conjugate as described in any of claims 1 to 10.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein the conjugate is immobilised.

15. Apparatus suitable for use in a method according to claim 13 or 14 including an immunoadsorbent comprising at least one conjugate as described in any of claims 1 to 10, a chamber in which that conjugate is retained and a fluid inlet and outlet.

16. Blood treated according to the method of claim 13 or

claim 14.

17. A pharmaceutically acceptable composition comprising a conjugate as described in any of claims 1 to 10.

18. A pharmaceutically acceptable composition according to claim 17 adapted for use in injection or infusion.

19. A kit comprising a conjugate as described in any of claims 1 to 10, blood according to claim 16, a pharmaceutically acceptable composition according to claim 17 or 18, or an apparatus according to claim 15; including instructions for use:

a) in preventing rejection of xenografts or at least in reducing the rate or extent of rejection,
or
b) in treating a disease in which an epitope capable of binding to a xenogenic natural antibody is implicated (e.g. Chagas disease, Leishmania or ideopathic myelofibrosis).

20. The use of a conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 10 in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing rejection of xenografts or at least for reducing the extent or rate of rejection.

21. The use of a conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 10 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a disease in which an epitope capable of binding to xenogenic natural antibodies are bound (e.g. Chagas disease, Leishmania or ideopathic myelofibrosis).

22. The present invention substantially as hereinbefore described, with reference to the accompanying example.